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U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
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INSECT PEST SURVEY

Bureau of Entomology, U. S. D. A.,
and

State Entomological Agencies cooperating.

Special Report No. 28 November 15, 1923.

POTATO TUBER MOTH IN VIRGINIA.

(Phthorimaea operculella Zell.)

The outbreak of potato tuber moth on the Eastern Shore of Virginia extends well up into Accomac County. Careful scouting during the last two weeks has established the region of maximum damage to be between Eastville and Exmore. South of Eastville larvae of the insect were found in fewer numbers as far down the peninsula as Kiptopeke. North of Exmore the survey is still unfinished, but larvae have been taken at Onley, Onancock, Parksley and Bloxom. At the last place only one larva was found by five inspectors, who looked over many fields.

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Produce Exchange, which handles practically all of the potatoes of the district, has agreed not to sell any seed from Virginia, or ship any, until January 1, 1924. By that time the condition of stored home-grown seed with respect to tuber worm infestation can be easily determined by their inspectors. No infested seed will be accepted by the exchange for shipment.

A tuber moth campaign has been planned and started in the affected region by the Virginia Truck Experiment Station. Arrangements have been made to fumigate most of the home-grown seed before planting time. To date two storage houses of a combined capacity of 250,000 cubic feet have been treated.

(Extract from letter from Herbert Spencer, of the
Virginia Truck Experiment Station, November 11,
1923, Norfolk, Virginia.)

